### **Youth Partnership**

Partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the field of youth





# 15 years of partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the field of youth: past achievements - future perspectives

by Hanjo Schild

Since 1998, ten years after the launch of the first EU youth programmes, the partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the youth field has taken the form of consecutive agreements or "Covenants" between the two institutions focusing in a first stage on "European Youth Worker and Youth Leader Training" ("Training Covenants"), later complemented by two further Covenants, on "Euro-Med youth co-operation" and on "Youth Research". As of spring 2005 both partners agreed to strengthen co-operation, to replace the existing three covenants by one single multi-annual Framework Partnership Agreement. Since then four such agreements have been signed, the most recent one for the period 2014 – 2016.

#### The political and legal background

"Both, the Council of Europe and the European Commission are perfectly able to competently run their different youth programmes autonomously. To replace their good punctual co-operation of the past with a long-term co-operation project within a legally defined framework and thus mutually give up part of their autonomy in the implementation of youth worker training programmes needs a motivation which has to go beyond the political opportunity of the day."

More than 15 years ago, in the very beginning, the partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the field of youth was not welcome by everybody in the European landscape of youth work and youth policy, within the institutions and outside. Some doubted that a formalised cooperation would produce an added value to the field and lead to a substantial progress in the work of the two institutions. Also the guestions how such a co-

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Peter Lauritzen: Vision, aims and objectives of a long-term co-operation agreement. About the added value of institutional co-operation in the youth field. Script 1999

operation should be constructed and designed, which focus it should have with regard to working priorities and how the different publics of the European Commission and the Council of Europe would be reflected within the partnership activities, led to many discussions at that time. However, at political level, within the two institutions, the will for a co-operation was evident and had already before it came to the formal agreement in 1998 a longer history. This is expressed in a Resolution of the Committee of Ministers of spring 1998 on the Youth Policy of the Council of Europe in which "the development of co-operation to stimulate a balanced development of youth structures in all member states" is regarded a priority; it asks to adapt existing structures with a view to "making Council of Europe youth activities more co-ordinated, co-operative and coherent" and to "improving co-operation with the European Union and with other international organisations".

Before, and not limited to the youth field, the two institutions had based their cooperation first on an informal exchange of letters between the Secretary General
of the Council of Europe and the President of the European Commission, dated
of June 1987 and a supplementary exchange of letters of November 1996. Later,
in April 2001, when the EU-CoE youth partnership existed already, the
philosophy of the letters was formalised by the Joint Declaration on Co-operation
and Partnership between the Council of Europe and the European Commission:
"The Council of Europe and the European Commission share the same values
and pursue common aims with regard to the protection of democracy, respect
for human rights and fundamental freedoms and the rule of law. These common
aims have led the Council of Europe and the European Commission in recent
years to develop a number of joint programmes for co-operation..... we confirm
our determination to deepen our partnership and enhance our co-operation
taking into account recent developments in our continent and the evolving
priorities in our respective activities".

On side of the European Union the co-operation between the Council of Europe and the European Commission in the field of youth was (and is) embedded in the legal basis of the YOUTH programme (2000-2006), later the YOUTH IN ACTION programme (2007 – 2013) and today the Erasmus+ programme (2014-2020). The YOUTH Programme stipulated that "the Commission ... shall strengthen its co-operation with non-Community countries and relevant international organisations, in particular the Council of Europe". One of the general objectives of the YOUTH IN ACTION programme was to promote European co-operation in the youth field and article 7 stresses that "the Programme shall also be open to co-operation with international organisations with authority in the field of youth, in particular the Council of Europe". Today, the regulation of the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union establishing 'Erasmus+' confirms this policy and emphasises the need to strengthen "cooperation under the Programme with international organisations in the field of education,

training, youth and sport, in particular with the Council of Europe". Key action 3 of the programme (support for policy reforms) encourages, amongst others, cooperation with international organisations with highly recognised expertise and analytical capacity (such as the Council of Europe), to strengthen the impact and added value of policies in the fields of education, training and youth. Activities supporting policy dialogue and cooperation on youth issues should comprise policy dialogue and cooperation across the EU, to/from non-EU countries, and with international organisations, notably the Council of Europe.

Regarding youth policy cooperation the European Commissions' White Paper on Youth (2001) explicitly referred to the Council of Europe and its achievements in the area of youth and suggested improving co-operation and networking, particularly in the area of greater understanding and knowledge of youth. The subsequent Council Resolution of November 2004 invited the Commission to set up, in co-operation with the Council of Europe, a European Network of Youth Knowledge.

Invited by the Council of Europe Summit of Heads of State and Government in Warsaw 2005 the former Prime Minister of Luxemburg, Jean-Claude Juncker submitted a report on the relationship of the Council of Europe and the European Union<sup>2</sup>. It highlights the long tradition of cooperation and the achievements made in the youth field and appeals for increased co-operation between the two partners. "In the youth field, the Council and the EU are pursuing almost identical policies, admittedly with different resources. There are a few bridges, however. For example, three youth programmes are being conducted under partnership agreements.... This is an opportunity to think about new joint initiatives, which would give the idea of a Europe without dividing lines more substance, and exploit some of the Council's strong points: its networks, especially regional networks, which include both EU and non-EU countries, its long experience of training youth organisers and leaders, and its exchange schemes for young people from all its member states."

A further joint step was taken in May 2007 by signing a Memorandum of Understanding between the Council of Europe and the European Union. It underlines that the two partners "will strengthen their co-operation in the youth field by developing and taking part in programmes and campaigns to empower young people to participate actively in the democratic process and by facilitating youth exchange".

Most recently, in its resolution on a European Union Work Plan for Youth for the period 2014-2015 the Council of the European Union invites the European Commission to seek to ensure coherence between the work plan of the European

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Council of Europe – European Union: "A sole ambition for the European continent", 11.04.2006

Union and the work plan of the partnership agreement with the Council of Europe in the field of youth.

When signing a new Framework Partnership Agreement 2014-2016 the Director for "Youth and Sport; Erasmus+" of the European Commission, Chiara Gariazzo and the Deputy Secretary-General of the Council of Europe, Gabriella Battaini-Dragoni confirmed the commitment of both, European Commission and Council of Europe to continue the well-established youth cooperation in the upcoming years.

# Some "historical" milestones in the development of the EU-CoE youth partnership

The first covenant on youth worker training started on 1 November 1998 for an initial period of 9 months, followed by a second phase of another 11 months until 30 June 2000.

"... The purpose of this covenant is to provide a framework for the joint development and funding of new European youth work training courses by the Commission and the Council..... it will also provide a basis for an innovative approach in this field, in terms of the partners involved in the co-operation at European level, the target public and the methods and content of the training offered...."<sup>3</sup>.

Nine training courses on a variety of topics were organized in this period: Intercultural Language Learning, Roma Youth Leaders, Project Management, Transnational Voluntary Service, Organisational Management, Intercultural Learning, Conflict Management, Training for Trainers, Voluntary Projects, Youth Information & Counselling. Many of these training courses led in this period to the production of T(raining)-Kits.

The two institutions considered this period as a pilot phase meant to explore the potential of co-operation and create a model of further co-operation. "The Partnership programme should create model programmes and not become a system of answering to all kind of training requests, as they come along. .... One such programme can have, through its potential for repetition, a higher impact than ten ordinary sessions."<sup>4</sup>

Not only because of their innovative character the first phases of the partnership were monitored and evaluated closely by the representatives of the two partners, the statutory structures, the European Youth Forum and experts involved in the implementation of actions. After a first needs assessment and

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Article 1 and annex B of the first Covenant

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Lauritzen, script 1999

vision-building seminar in April 1999 an evaluation seminar was organised in February 2000 to lay the ground for the future development of the partnership.

"All reports present positive ideas for the continuation of the partnership agreement and indications about the training and publications' offer for the future. They concern the continuation and adaptation of the training offer, the clarity of the target group, the necessity for a long term commitment from the side of the institutions and in general, the wish to provide an adequate framework for continuous assessment of the partnership agreement".<sup>5</sup>

The results of the evaluation led to a third (1 July 2000 - 29 February 2004) and later fourth covenant (1 March 2004 - 31 May 2005) which refocused the joint programme on training offers on European Citizenship and a long-term training course for trainers. It also confirmed as a priority to continue visibility actions and further develop educational publications, such as the T-Kits and the magazine Coyote and the creation of an own website. As kind of support measures it was decided to hold regular conferences on issues of common concern and to convene an expert group on Quality and Curriculum Development in the field of non-formal learning.

"The partnership is now becoming a learning process towards a youth work training programme on 'European Citizenship' with ambitious goals of setting European level standards, models and quality criteria." The European Citizenship pilot training courses led to a concept of short-term training modules which were organised in co-operation with the network of National Agencies & the SALTO Resource Centre Training and Co-operation (today still existing). Also the development and successful implementation of the "Advanced Training for Trainers in Europe" course (ATTE) under the third covenant created something innovative in its approach, methodology, structure, perspective and intensity and contributed substantially to European level quality training of youth workers and youth leaders. The part of the property of the proper

The European Commission – Council of Europe joint working paper "Pathways towards validation and recognition of education, training and learning in the youth field" developed a common position and action with regard to education, training and learning in youth activities as part of voluntary and civil society activities, in particular with regard to the validation and recognition of these activities. It built the basis for further co-operation and co-ordinated action in the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Patrick Penninckx: Executive summary - compilation of background documents to the evaluation seminar on the activities run under the Partnership Agreement 1998 – 1999, February 2000

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Lasse Siurala: Concluding remarks. Final Report of the Evaluation Seminar, February 2000

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> The ATTE course is very well documented in the two volumes « Advanced Training for Trainers in Europe (ATTE): Volume 1 – Curriculum description, Strasbourg 2005 and Volume 2 – External evaluation – Final report, Strasbourg 2006.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Published in February 2004

field and had quite some impact on political strategies and practical instruments, such as YouthPass and the European Portfolio for Youth Workers and Youth Leaders.

In this period of the third covenant the two institutions had already extended their common fields of activities, a consequent step forward which resulted from joint experiences and needs assessment, already anticipated by Peter Lauritzen in 1999. "Co-operation with the Commission in the youth field needs to extend to youth research co-operation, youth policy development, co-operation on Humanitarian Action, Voluntary Service and construction of a knowledge pool on youth in Europe. There is still much room left to develop the appropriate forms of co-operation in these extended areas of co-operation. Youth worker training is only one aspect of the co-operation item between the European Commission and the Council of Europe and there is no end to the possibilities of creating added values in some of the domains mentioned above."

The Partnership on Euro-Med Youth Co-operation (1 May 2003 - 30 April 2005) focused on intercultural learning and co-operation between the Euro-Mediterranean partner countries and the Member States of the EU and the Council of Europe. It was a joint project of the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe and the Directorate of Youth and Sport. In this initial phase the partnership implemented mainly some short-term training courses on "Intercultural learning and human rights education in the Mediterranean", on "Citizenship matters - promoting the participation of women and minorities" and two longer-term courses on "youth participation and intercultural exchange in Euro-Med youth projects" and Training Course for Trainers (TATEM), in cooperation with Salto Euro-Med Resource Centre in France.

The partnership on a better knowledge & understanding of youth, in brief: the youth research covenant (1 April 2003 – 31 March 2005) aimed at developing a common and better knowledge basis in the field of youth and enhancing cooperation between youth researchers, policy makers and youth workers / leaders at European level. The goal was mainly to collect and to provide research knowledge of the situation, needs and lifestyles of young people in order to better inform European youth policy and youth work practice. In the very heart of this first phase stands the development of the "European Knowledge Centre for Youth Policy" as a state of the art online knowledge management system and the European Network of Youth Researchers inviting one nominated researcher per member state to be a member of this network. Additionally the partnership organised thematic research seminars on politically relevant topics.

Towards the end of the three thematic covenants the consultancy company Deloitte & Touche was charged to evaluate the performance and the results of

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Peter Lauritzen: Script 1999

the covenant on training in youth work in the period 2000-2003; in March 2004 the final evaluation report was submitted to the European Commission. The main purpose of the evaluation was to provide orientations and recommendations for the new generation of programmes, particularly the Youth programme, to be established as of 2007. In their analysis Deloitte & Touche considered as relevant criteria the relevance, impact, efficiency and effectiveness of implemented action. The evaluation concludes "that the Partnership Covenant largely achieved the objectives and produced the results that were expected. A considerable volume of direct training activity has taken place and ten separate publications have been produced. A functioning website has been created and some flanking activities in relation to curriculum development and related areas have also been completed". 10 In their conclusions the evaluators recommended the full integration of activities into the EU and Council of Europe structures and strategies, particularly the Youth programme and concerning staffing and management to prioritise resources for co-ordination activities; "a structured and well-functioning management, including sufficient financial and human resources, with clear roles and responsibilities for all involved, is of utmost importance for the efficient management...".

Taking into account these recommendations and the internal evaluation of the experiences made in the three areas of youth worker training, youth research and Euro-Mediterranean co-operation, both the European Commission and the Council of Europe decided to replace the individual covenants by one single Framework Partnership Agreement, overarching the earlier pillars.

In 2013, another external evaluation of the European Commission - Council of Europe Youth Partnership Agreements was conducted by ECORYS for the period 2007-2011/12. The objective of this evaluation was to assess how the activities of the EU-CoE youth partnership contributed to the objectives as set out in the Framework Partnership Agreement and the annual specific grant agreements in order to inform the development of the next Framework Partnership Agreement 2014-2016. The evaluation comes to the following conclusion: "The objectives and activities of the youth partnership are relevant and complementary to the objectives of the EU Youth Strategy, the objectives of the Youth in Action programme, and the objectives of the future Erasmus+ programme. In particular the partnership provides a valuable framework for strategic cooperation between the EU and Council of Europe. It provides a mechanism to exploit synergies, to address issues of common interest to both institutions and to achieve leverage effects." <sup>11</sup>

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 $<sup>^{10}</sup>$  Deloitte & Touche : Evaluation of the partnership covenant on training in youth work between the European Commission and the Council of Europe. Final report. March 2004

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> ECORYS 2013, Evaluation of the European Commission - Council of Europe Youth Partnership Agreements 2007-2011/12 – final report

Based on the results of the evaluation and a needs assessment undertaken with partners, stakeholders and the two institutions the EU-CoE youth partnership focuses during the years 2014-2016 particularly on youth participation and citizenship, social inclusion and youth work.

# <u>The generation of Framework Partnership Agreements and their implementation</u>

The first framework agreement was signed for the period 1 May 2005 – 31 December 2006, followed by a second one from 1 January 2007 until 30 June 2010 and a third one 1 July 2010 to 31 December 2013. The current, fourth agreement covers the period 1 January 2014 to 31 December 2016. All Framework Partnership Agreements are complemented by annual Specific Grant Agreements which describe the actions and the respective budget allocation for the defined period.

The aim of the partnership is to provide a framework for the joint development of co-operation and a coherent strategy in the field of youth, particularly in the area of citizenship, participation & human rights, intercultural dialogue & co-operation, quality, recognition & visibility of youth work, better understanding & knowledge of youth, youth policy development. Activities of the partnership are mainly addressed to the needs of young people, youth workers and youth leaders, trainers, researchers, policy-makers, experts and practitioners and generally to all actors in youth policy in the member states of the both partners and the programme and partner countries of the Youth Programme (today Erasmus+). Particular focus is also put on countries covered by the European Neighbourhood Policy, more specifically the Euro-Mediterranean region, South Eastern Europe and Eastern Europe and the Caucasus.

Over the last years the work programme set the following priorities:

• (European) Citizenship and Participation

In co-operation with National Agencies of the Youth in Action programme and the SALTO Resource Centre Training and Co-operation a series of training courses trained youth workers and youth leaders on various aspects of European Citizenship; this led to the design of a curriculum for training courses which are today implemented by and in co-operation with the National Agencies for the Erasmus+/Youth in Action Programme.

Despite numerous political and research documents as well as good practice examples, it seems to be difficult to keep track of the state of affairs in the reflections and discussions on youth participation. In 2014 the partnership has

therefore initiated (re)focusing on the topic of youth participation and to deepen its activities herein. This will allow following up on the work done on the topic by both partner institutions (and others) and as a result to provide some basic recommendations to policy and practice.

### Intercultural dialogue and human rights

In the framework of the Euro-Mediterranean co-operation various training courses, seminars and conferences were organised around Human Rights, Citizenship, Participation, Intercultural learning and Intercultural dialogue. Particularly the process of youth policy cooperation in the broader Euro-Mediterranean region (starting in 2005) aimed at fostering greater cooperation between youth policy stakeholders and partners, such as the League of Arab States, UNFPA, Aġenzija Żgħażagħ in Malta and EuroMed Youth Platform, SALTO Resource Centre EuroMed and others. The process of youth policy co-operation has inter alia significantly contributed to a better co-operation among institutions responsible for youth policy and civil society structures in the region.

Researching indicators for intercultural dialogue was initiated in 2009. Since a series of expert meetings and studies providing both a scientific and a practical knowledge led to the conclusion that a common understanding of the concepts related to intercultural dialogue was needed, as well as guidelines for educational practices, principles and related methodologies, in short criteria and indicators for intercultural dialogue in non-formal learning / education activities. They are expected to be published in 2014.

As a follow-up of the Africa-Europe Youth Summit in 2007, the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe had developed and implemented a programme in partnership with key governmental and non-governmental actors in Africa and Europe, including the European Youth Forum and the African Youth Platforms, the African Union and the European Union. This led in 2009-2011 to the addition of a Euro-African dimension to the youth partnership programme, managed by the North-South Centre. Activities were mainly focusing on Africa-Europe training course for youth trainers and members of youth organisations, including those of the African diaspora living in Europe.

## Diversity and Anti-discrimination

In the period 2005-2007, the Council of Europe and the European Commission had reinforced their focus on diversity, anti-racism and anti-discrimination. The European Commission contributed to the "European Youth Campaign for Diversity, Human Rights and Participation: All Different — All Equal" and its follow-up in the framework of the youth partnership, particularly through the support of relevant campaign activities such as the symposia "Intercultural and

Interreligious dialogue", "Participation and Active Citizenship", "Diversity Youth Forum", the conference "Immigration and Xenophobia" and training for trainers active in the campaign or of sport supporters for the prevention of discrimination and violence in sport.

Quality, recognition and visibility in youth work and training

Training of youth workers and others can be considered a cornerstone for quality of youth work at international level. For this purpose the partnership initiated or was involved in a number of innovative training offers:

- based on the experiences made with the earlier Advanced Training for Trainers in Europe (ATTE) (2001-2003) and a survey on training needs the partnership implemented in 2008-10 a new format, the so-called training course of "Trainers for Active Learning in Europe" (TALE);
- the training of trainers initiative (TATEM) in the Euro-Mediterranean region aimed at developing and consolidating skills and competences of trainers active in projects in and with the Euro-Med region;
- the partnership supported the initiative of universities to develop a Master on European Youth Studies;
- -the pilot training course held in 2013/14 on "participatory and knowledge based youth policy" invited participants to reflect on their own practice as policy makers, researchers or practitioners.

The need for updating the strategy for a better recognition of non-formal learning / education and of youth work as laid down in 2004 in the first "Pathways-Paper" led in 2010 to the revised version "Pathways 2.0 towards recognition of non-formal learning/education and of youth work in Europe", drafted by the partnership in cooperation with the European Youth Forum and the German National Agency of the Youth in Action programme and Salto Resource Centre Training and Cooperation. It was largely discussed in the symposium "Getting there...." in 2011 and led to a final statement and related plan of action adopted by participants; since an expert group coordinated by the partnership monitors the implementation of actions.

The European Conference "Framework, Quality, and Impact of Young Europeans' Learning Mobility" in 2011 discussed the relevance of mobility of young people carried out in various international projects and took stock of current issues and research findings on learning youth mobility. An important result was the suggestion to create a European Platform on Learning Mobility in the youth field to facilitate an exchange between policy makers, researchers, practitioners, institutions and organizations in the youth field. This led to the first "European Platform on Learning Mobility" conference 2013 in Berlin, organised and coordinated by a European Steering Group. As of 2014 the partnership took over

the coordination of the European Learning Mobility Platform and its Steering Group.

Better understanding and knowledge of youth and youth policy development

Since 2005 the European Knowledge Centre for Youth Policy (EKCYP) is an online database to provide the youth sector with reliable knowledge and information about young people's situation across Europe. It integrates priority themes of youth policy, including cross-sectoral policies in its different features. In order to provide proper country information the core work of the knowledge centre is based on national correspondent, co-ordinated by the partnership. EKCYP provides also a number of other online tools (glossary, good practice and expert database, library).

The formerly existing researcher's network which brought together up to 50 researchers representing all member states of the Council of Europe was as of 2011 replaced by the Pool of European Youth Researchers (PEYR). The mission of PEYR is to provide research advice and perspective on youth policy strategies and approaches when requested by the two partner institutions or others. The group of 25 selected researchers is to be renewed every three years based on a call, guaranteeing a certain diversity of its members in terms of geographical coverage, gender, professional backgrounds and expertise....

In recent years thematic research and policy seminars on priority themes were continuously organised in order to produce a better knowledge on key issues of youth policy and practice: currently the topics social inclusion of young people / barriers encountered by young people from vulnerable groups in accessing their rights and engaging with society as well as citizenship / participation of all young people have been prioritised; in addition a series of expert workshops focusing on "History of Youth Work" have been organised and discussed the relevance of history for todays' policy making.

Within regional cooperation activities in Southern Mediterranean, Eastern Europe and Caucasus and South East Europe a series of seminars and symposia on youth policy development and co-operation aimed at enhancing dialogue between policy, research and practice and exchanging good practices; some of these events were focusing on specific topics, such as youth participation and citizenship, relevance of youth work, youth information and counselling, well-being of young people. Specific activities on youth policy co-operation and development were also implemented with and in the Russian Federation.

A specific information and publication strategy

A specific information strategy aims at making the results of the Partnership more visible and enhancing the multiplier effect by dissemination of results. From the very beginning activities were documented and results processed to publications and training material, such as the T(raining)-Kits, the Coyote Magazine, the Youth Knowledge Books or the new series Perspectives on Youth.

Some of them were translated into French and in German, as well as - upon initiative of cooperation partners - into other languages, such as Czech, Estonian, Hungarian, Italian, Latvian, Lithuanian, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Russian, Serbian, Slovene and Turkish.

### The management of the work programme

All activities are coordinated by the partnership team, responsible for the implementation, the monitoring and the visibility of the actions. Today, the secretariat consists of 8 full and part-time posts.

With regard to the management structure both partners agreed to set up two main "bodies", coordinated and supported by the partnership secretariat.

The "Partnership Management Board" is composed of representatives of both partners, the staff of the partnership secretariat and - as observers — the European Youth Forum. It meets annually and contributes to the co-ordination of the different thematic areas and to decisions and steering of activities.

The "Partnership Advisory Group" gather representatives of cooperation partners as the European Youth Forum, National Agencies for the Erasmus+/ Youth in Action Programme, SALTO Resource Centres, researchers, policy makers, etc for an exchange of information with the aim to increase synergies.

## Some conclusions and future perspectives

Both the European Commission and the Council of Europe consider the Partnership as a very useful tool to build on the strengths of each institution and to enhance co-operation between the two institutions in the field of youth. The Partnership allows strengthening of synergies and constitutes a further milestone in the intensive, increased and lasting co-operation between the two institutions. The added value of the Partnership is also confirmed by the main stakeholders in the field of youth work. Since the very beginning the partnership led to a dynamic process with a positive reputation in the field, a wide range of achievements and high quality results.

In general terms future activities will continuously focus on democracy, participation and civil society development, social cohesion and inclusion, knowledge based policy and practice. Working priorities could be along following lines:

- Supporting a strategy for a better formal, political and social recognition of youth work and of non-formal learning, in particular by providing and disseminating knowledge and tools and acting as a reference point for youth workers and youth policy makers.
- Contributing to a better understanding and knowledge of youth, by serving as a kind of think tank on hot policy issues.
- Further developing EKCYP as a reference centre for youth policy and practice in Europe and beyond.
- Promoting the political priorities of the youth sector in both, European Union and Council of Europe by enhancing co-operation, exchange of information and good practice for a better youth policy development.
- Fostering regional co-operation in youth policy development within Europe (Eastern Europe and the Caucasus, South East Europe) and beyond, particularly with the South Mediterranean region.
- Mainstreaming youth into other cross-sectorial policies, including employment, education, social inclusion, health and well by contributing to the conceptual (re-)definition of youth work and youth policy.